

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITTLESEY

: : : :
REPORT

- on the -

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS

FOR THE YEAR 1940

† † † †

October 1941.

J.F. DAWSON,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITTLESEY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the Year 1940.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.F.DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Medical Officer of Health:- | J.F.Dawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Sanitary Inspector:- | J.J.Beresford, Cert S.I.E.B. |
| Meat Inspector:- | J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S. |

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area (in acres) | 23,362 |
| Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate 1940). | 8,150 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 2,390 |
| Rateable Value | £25,978 |
| Amount represented by ld. rate | £119-8-1 |

VITAL STATISTICS

| | Total. | M. | F. | | |
|---------------|--------|-----|-----|---|---------------|
| Legitimate. | 104. | 45. | 59. | Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | |
| Live Births: | | | | mid 1940... | <u>13.37.</u> |
| Illegitimate. | 5. | 2. | 3. | | |
| Stillbirths | - | - | - | Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births | <u>Nil</u> |
| Deaths. | 102. | 59. | 43. | Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population ... | <u>12.51.</u> |

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| Puerperal sepsis | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> |
| Other puerperal causes | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> |
| Total | <u>Nil</u> | <u>Nil</u> |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

| | |
|---|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births .. | 72.72 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 66.66 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 200 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 15 |
| " " Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | Nil |

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory examine specimens submitted for examination.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Facilities for the removal to hospital of sick and injured persons is afforded by the Ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Infectious cases are conveyed in the Wisbech Isolation Hospital Ambulance. These arrangements have proved adequate.

Since the commencement of the War, 3 ambulances have been provided which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Nursing in the home is carried out by 3 district nurses.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held once a week in Whittlesey, a local practitioner attending at each session.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

As a result of the War there has been established a First Aid Post in the charge of a Medical Officer. There are also 3 First Aid Points. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops are inspected frequently to see that the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, are being complied with.

There are 29 registered premises. The majority of cowsheds are far below the standards required by the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Meat & Other Foods.

Shops, stalls and vehicles are periodically inspected in order to see that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are being complied with.

Meat inspection is carried out by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

WATER

The piped water supply provided by arrangement with the City of Peterborough continues to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

The sewerage plant continues to give satisfaction.

Some earth closets and vaults still remain but they are gradually being replaced by water closets.

Although the Broad Street Schools have now connected up with the main sewerage, I regret to say that some of the schools are yet without modern sanitary arrangements. One expects the schools to give a lead in matters of progress such as Public Health and Sanitation.

HOUSING

Housing has not progressed during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1926. They are subject to the Bye-Laws of the Urban District Council relating to tents, vans, etc.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

11 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year compared with 3 cases in the previous year. Cases will continue to occur until parents consent to have their children protected.

A word on Diphtheria Immunisation.

Publicity in every possible way has been given to the importance of parents having their children protected against Diphtheria. The Government has done everything with the exception of making immunisation compulsory. It is now up to the parents to co-operate in stamping out this disease, only 2.92% of the parents have consented to have their younger children (those between 1 and 5 years) protected, and it is during this period that Diphtheria takes its greatest toll of life. I appeal to parents to allow their children to be safeguarded against this disease.

During the severe winter months 18 cases of Pneumonia were notified. I regret to report that 14 deaths occurred.

An outbreak of Measles resulted in 213 cases being notified. No deaths occurred from this disease.

(See attached Table "A")

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 2135% of the parents consented to have their children immunised against Diphtheria. 8.23% of the parents of the evacuee children also consented. Immunisation was carried out at the schools. The prophylactic used was Toxoid - Antitoxin Floccules (Suspension).

TUBERCULOSIS

See attached Table "B"

Table showing incidence of Tuberculosis during 1940.

Table "B"

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0- ... | | | | | | | | |
| 1- ... | | | | | | | | |
| 5- ... | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 15- ... | | 1. | | | | | | |
| 25- ... | 2. | 1. | | | 1. | | | |
| 35- ... | | 1. | | | 1. | | | 1. |
| 45- ... | | | | | | | | |
| 55- ... | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards. | | | | | | | | |
| Totals. | 2. | 3. | 1. | - | 2. | - | - | 1. |